



THE NEW LIFE

by [Name]

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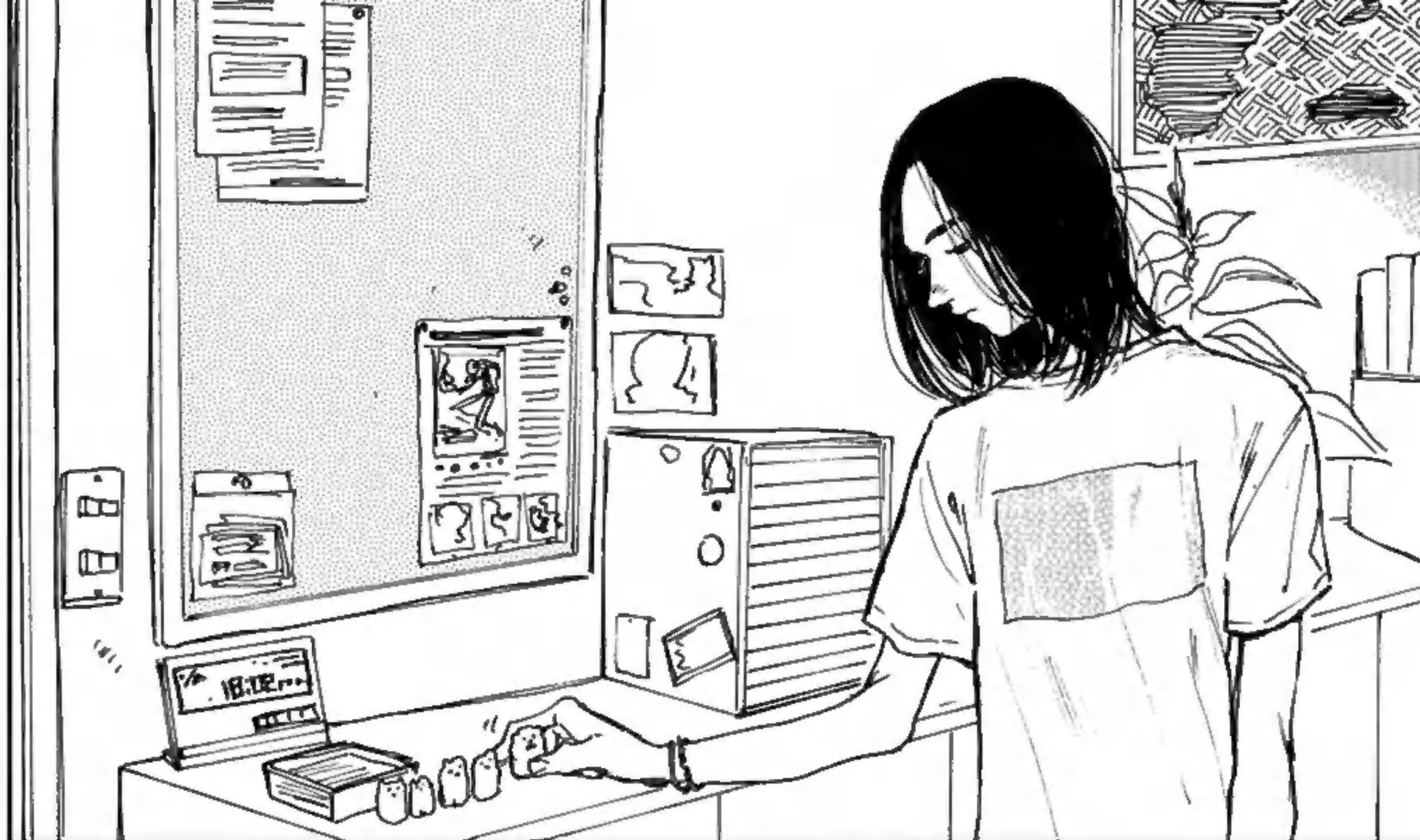
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N° 2





TSURUGI.



HAHA
HA!

HURRY
UP AND
COME TO
TOKYO.
36.5

MUST
BE TOUGH
FOR PEOPLE
IN THE
STICKS.

IT'S NOT
THE STICKS.
IT'S NORTH
KANTO.



I DON'T
WANNA
GO
HOME.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

HA
HA
HA!



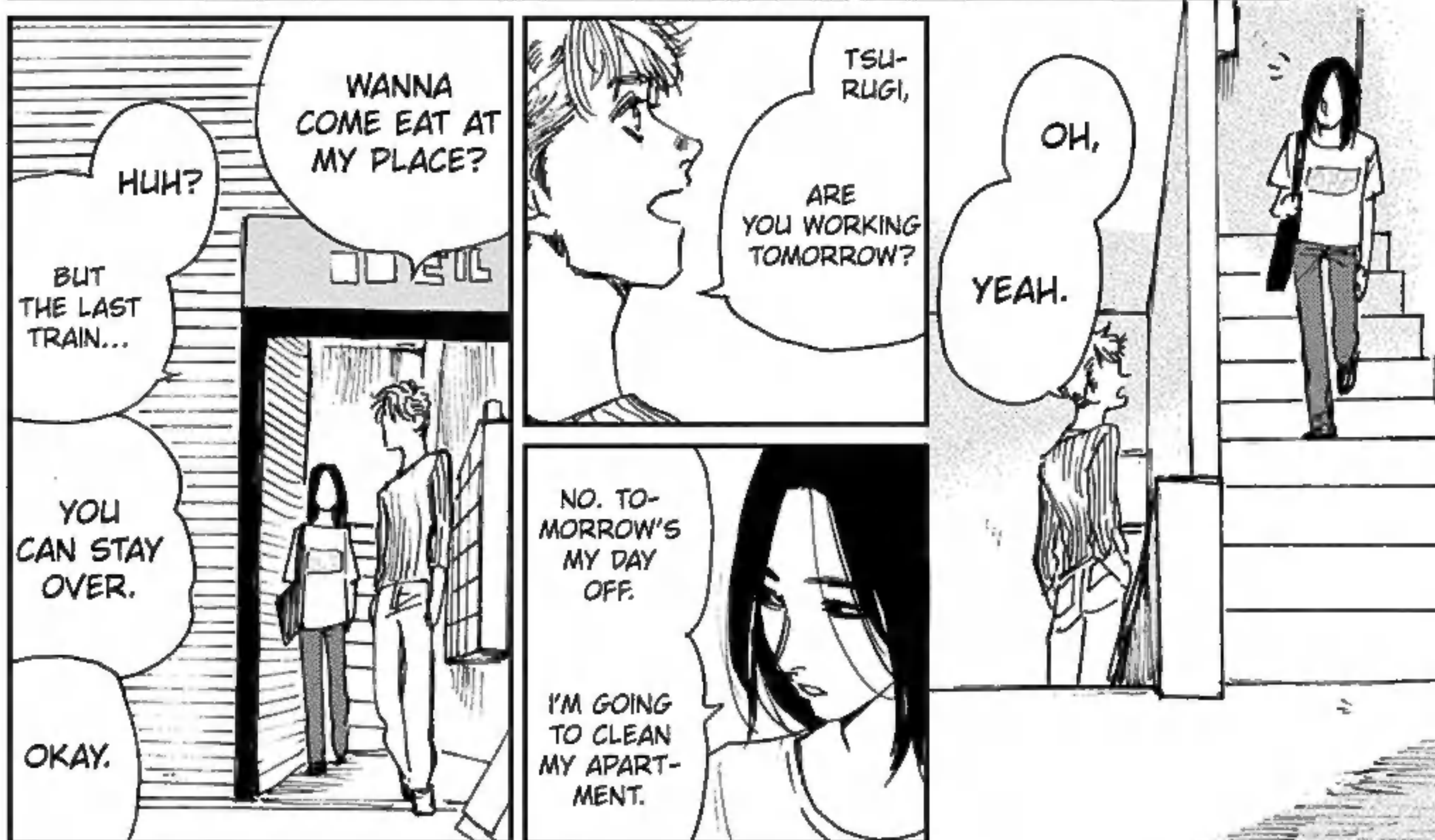
KER-CHUNK



FINE.
GOOD
WORK
TODAY.

I'M
LEAVING.





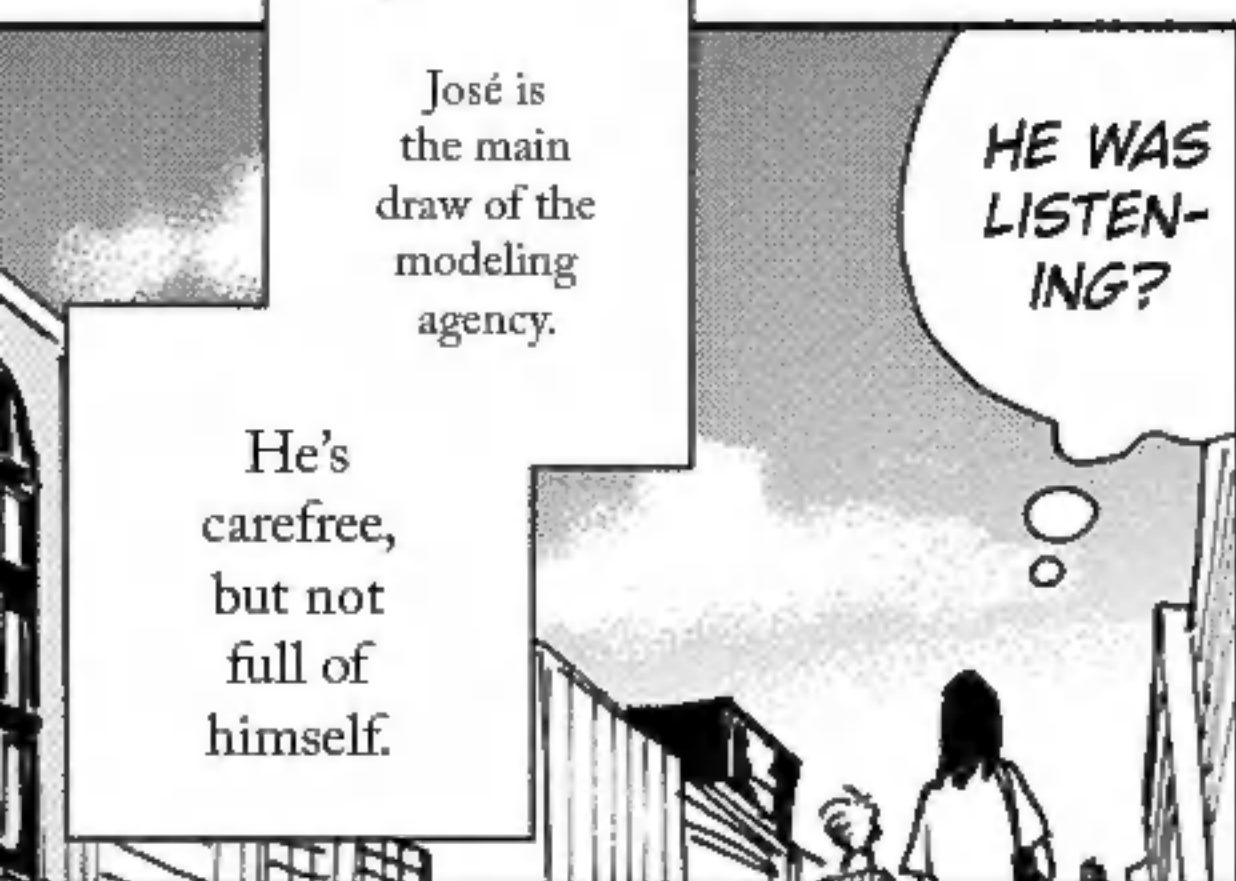


HMM...



...

THEY DON'T
CARE, SO DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
IT.



José is
the main
draw of the
modeling
agency.

He's
carefree,
but not
full of
himself.

HE WAS
LISTEN-
ING?

...

YEAH.



GOING
HOME IS A
PAIN, ISN'T
IT?

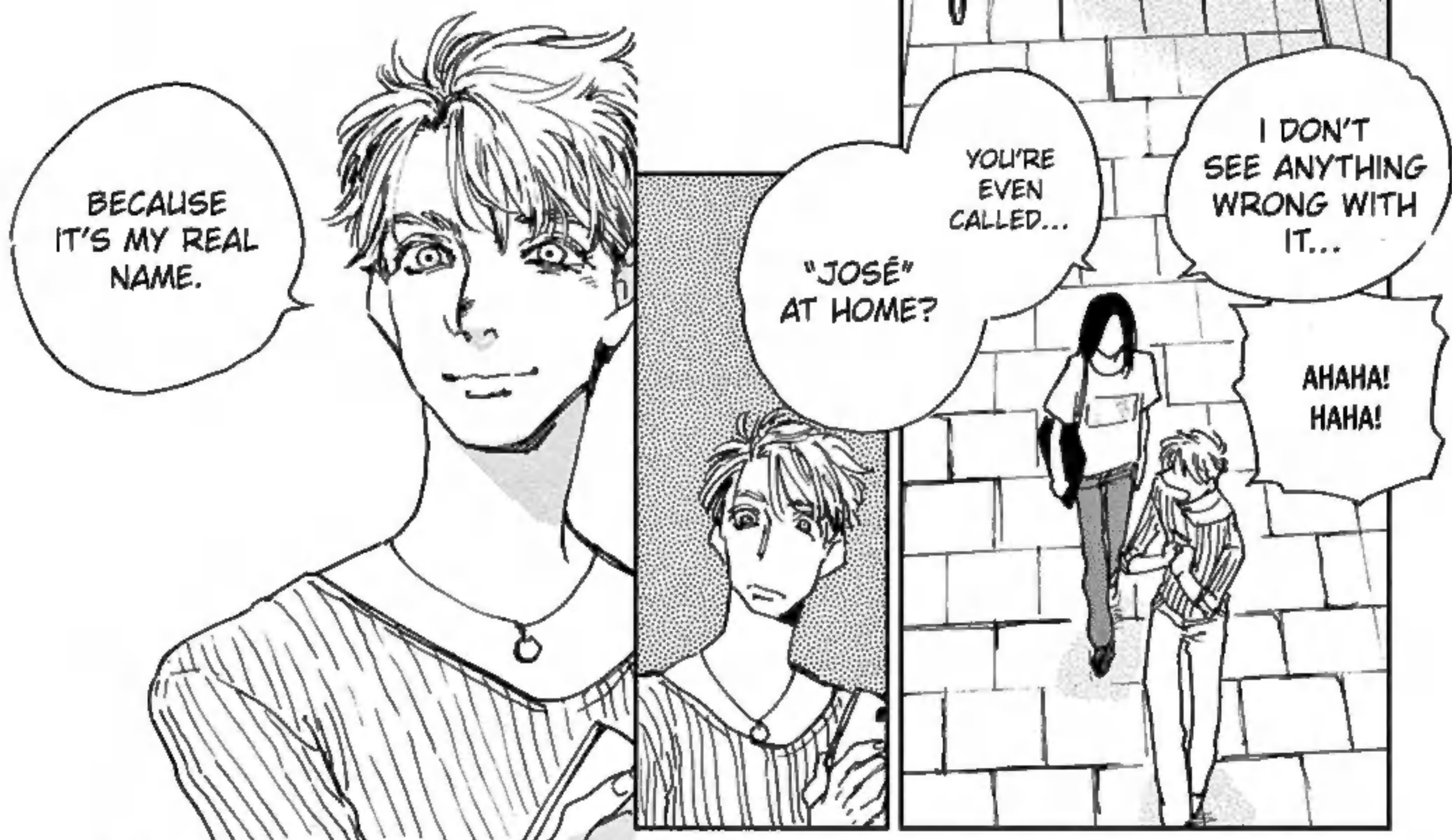


everyone
probably
feels that
way about
him.

LISTEN
TO THIS.

For some
reason, I
really like
him, but...





BECAUSE
IT'S MY REAL
NAME.

YOU'RE
EVEN
CALLED...

I DON'T
SEE ANYTHING
WRONG WITH
IT...

"JOSÉ"
AT HOME?

AHAHA!
HAHA!



AHAHAHA!

YOUR
REAL
NAME?



HAH...



SO I CAN
BUY SOME
BOOZE.

TSU-
RUGI,
LET'S
STOP AT THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE...



SURE...

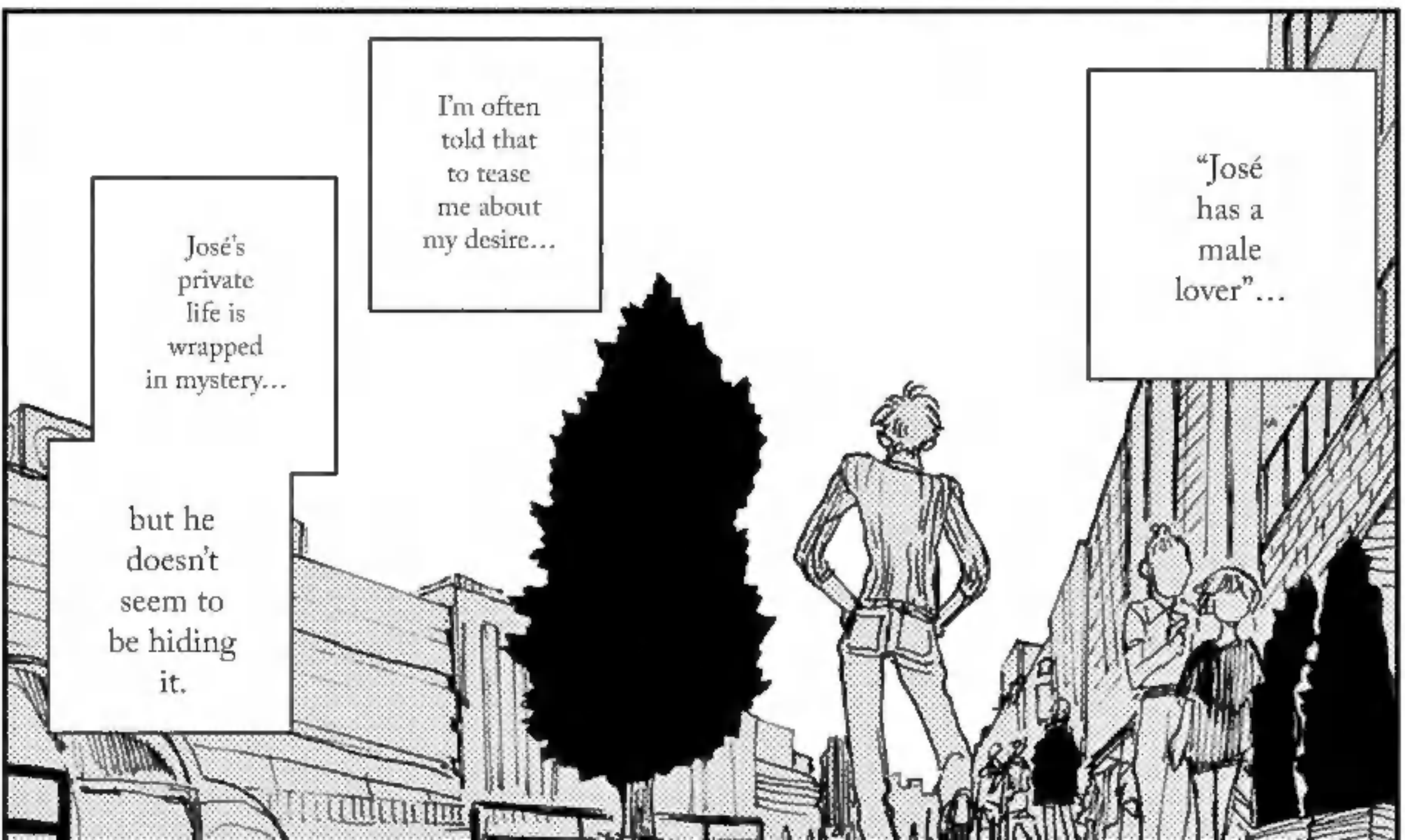


José's private life is wrapped in mystery...

but he doesn't seem to be hiding it.

I'm often told that to tease me about my desire...

"José has a male lover"...





in
other
direc-
tions.

José
is able
to draw
their
eyes

Skillfully
distracting
everyone...

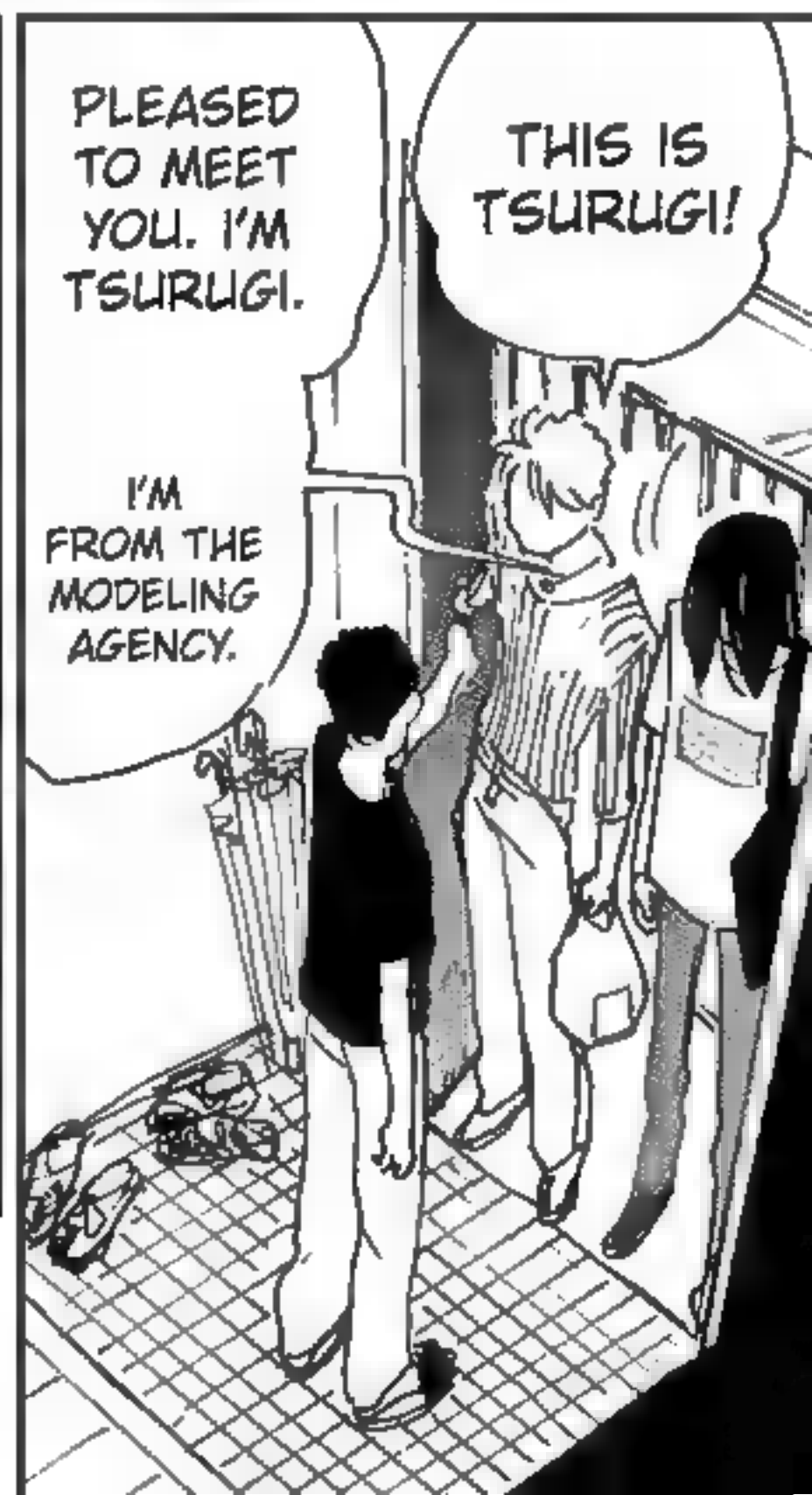


When
I think
of his
photos
...



THE
RUMORS ARE
TRUE...

I
WONDER
IF...





SIZZLE

The man of
mystery
(Amou-san)

WAS IT A
SOUVENIR FROM
HOKKAIDO?

skillfully
grilled
the lamb,
chicken,
and vege-
tables.

NO
NEED.

I can auto-
graph it too.

SHOULD I
SEND THEM
ONE?

IT'LL
JUST MAKE
THEIR NEIGH-
BORS JEA-
LOUS.

BUT
THA-
NKS.

THEY
SAID THEY
SAW YOUR
POSTER IN
SAPPORO,

IT'S
NOR-
MAL.

BUT THE
SHOPKEEPER
WOULDN'T
GIVE IT
TO THEM.

HOW
WAS YOUR
TRIP?

YOU GET
ALONG WELL WITH
YOUR PARENTS,
AMOU.

MEET?

HOW
DID YOU
TWO...

OH?
WHICH
ONE?

I THINK
IT WAS THE
ONE WITH
THE SHOES.

WE
WERE IN THE
SAME CLASS
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

...



OH,
REALLY?

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS THE
OPPOSITE.

THE
OPPO-
SITE?

I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
FREELADING.

WHEN
I CAME TO
TOKYO,

AMOLI
JUST CAME
ALONG WITH
ME.



SURE
IS.

THAT'S
A LONG
TIME.



NO MAT-
TER HOW
MANY TIMES
WE MOVE,
THAT'S
HOW IT
IS.

YEAH.

BUT
THE NAME
PLATE SAYS
"AMOLI."

YOU PUNK!
DID YOU REALLY
SAY THAT?!



HE
LOVES
ME,

SO HE
FOLLOWS ME
WHEREVER
I GO.

AMOLI!





REALLY?

...

ROOM-
MATE.



I'D
HAVE TO
FIND A



COOL WATER!
IT OFF
QUICK.

I MIS-
JUDGED AND
BURNT MY-
SELF.

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?

THAT
SCARED
ME!



AGH!!

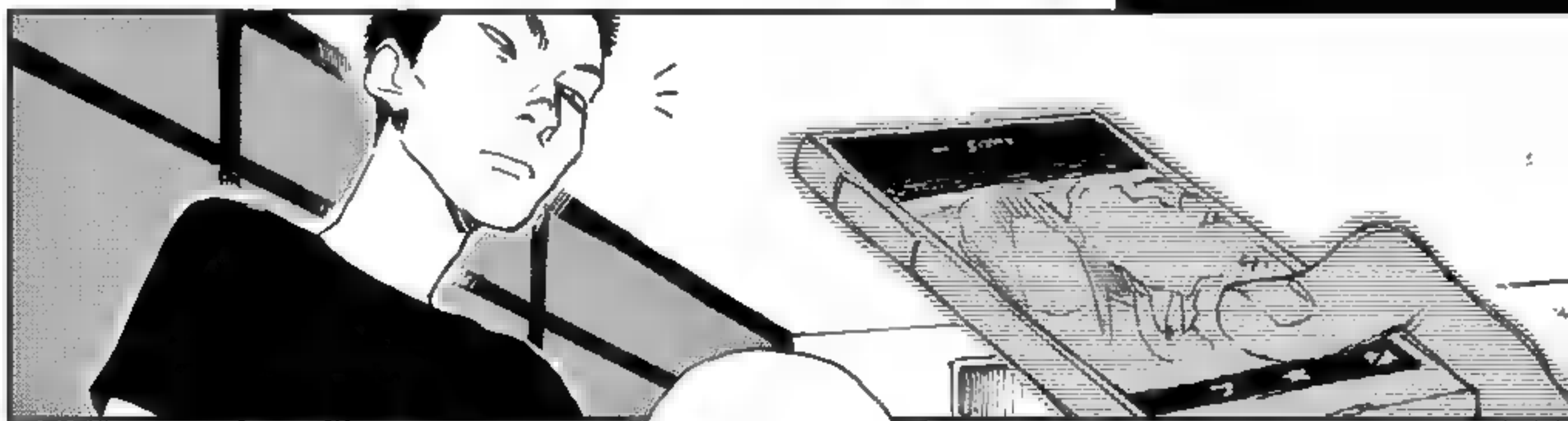


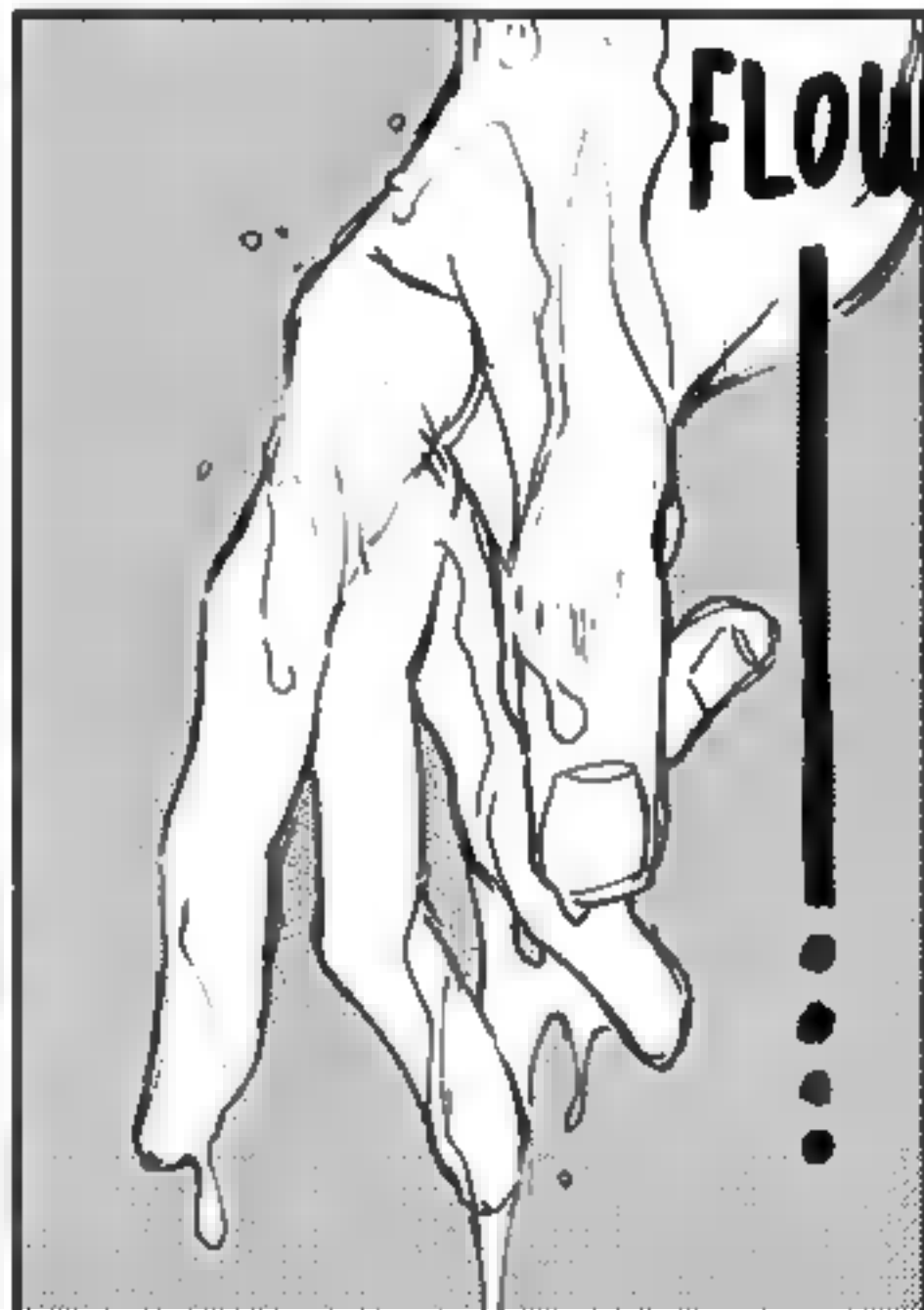
AIE
AIE
AIE.

COOL
IT FOR FIVE
MINUTES.



flow





"Love."

José
said
"love."

with that
unsociable
and plain man
to look
after him.

It was
clear that
José was
living
there,

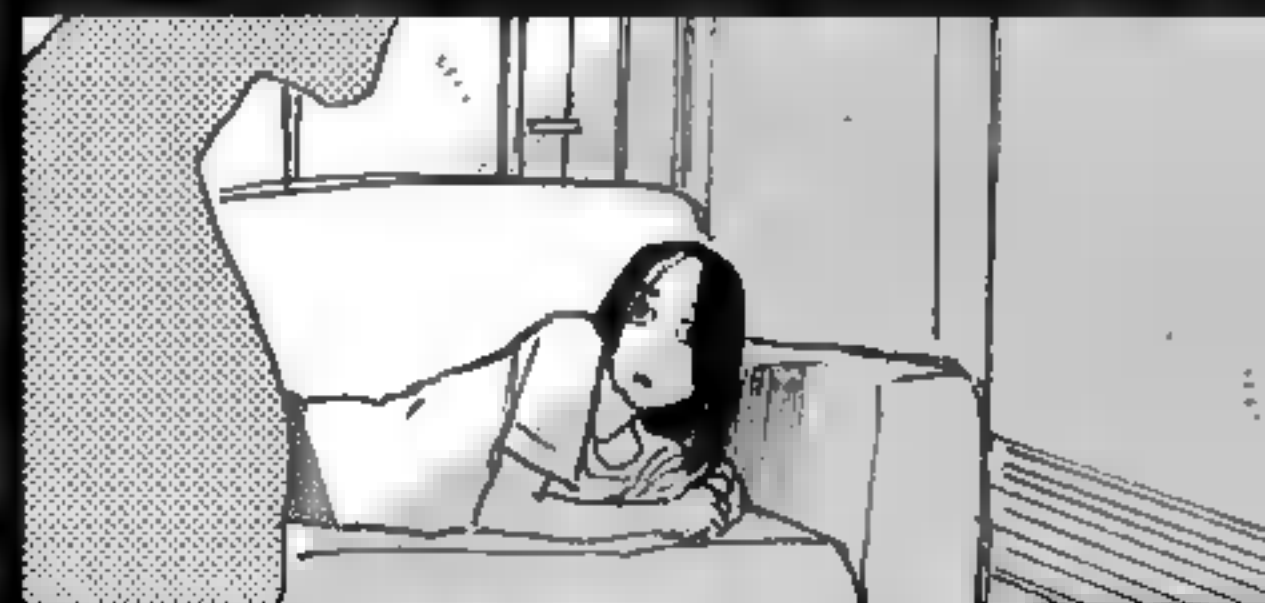
as if it
were some-
how discon-
nected from
reality.

That
was a
strange
evening,

In José's home, it was as if I was allowed
to be immersed in love.









The lead
-in of a
horror
movie.

My head
fills with
clichéd ima-
ginings...

A
courteous
occupant...

A western-
style house
in the mid-
dle of the
forest.

A car
stuck on a
deserted
road in
the rain.

I
thought...

A
tragedy
begins...

A SAC-
RIFICE?

A...

HAHA
HA!

A RI-
TUAL?

even if
I'm not
going
to be
killed,

I've got-
ten myself
involved in
something
trouble-
some.

AMOLI,

CAN YOU
SPEAK?

...IS
THIS

SOME
KIND OF
RITUAL?



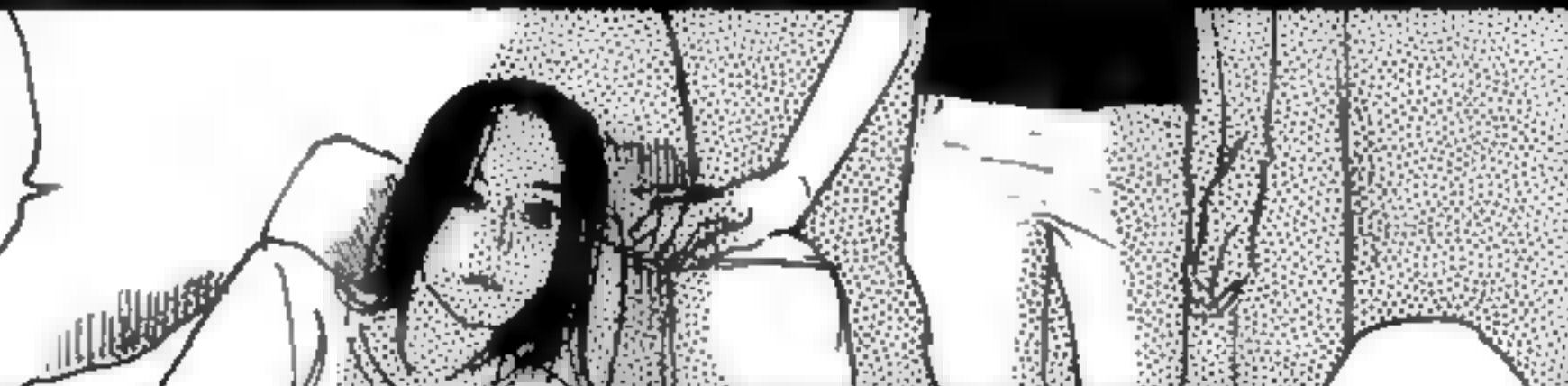
I'M HELPING AMOLI OUT WITH HIS WORK.



AMOLI'S AN ARTIST.

RIGHT.

...HIS WORK?



ARE YOU SAYING YOU MODEL FOR HIM?

AMOLI DOESN'T DRAW ME.

NOT EXACTLY.

SO NOW AND THEN,

OH.

WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME.

HE SAYS THE MOOD STRIKES HIM

AND HE'S GRIPPED BY THE CREATIVE URGE...

THAT SMELL OF SCHOOL?

AMOLI WILL LOOK AT ME.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
LISTEN TO
YOU, YOU
DRUNK.

BUT
SINCE YOU'RE
HERE TODAY,
TSURUGI...



The truth
of the
matter...

be-
hind the
rumors...

THAT'S
IT.

IT'S THE
SMELL OF
PENCILS.



José's
eyes...



IT'S MY
FIRST TIME
SEEING...

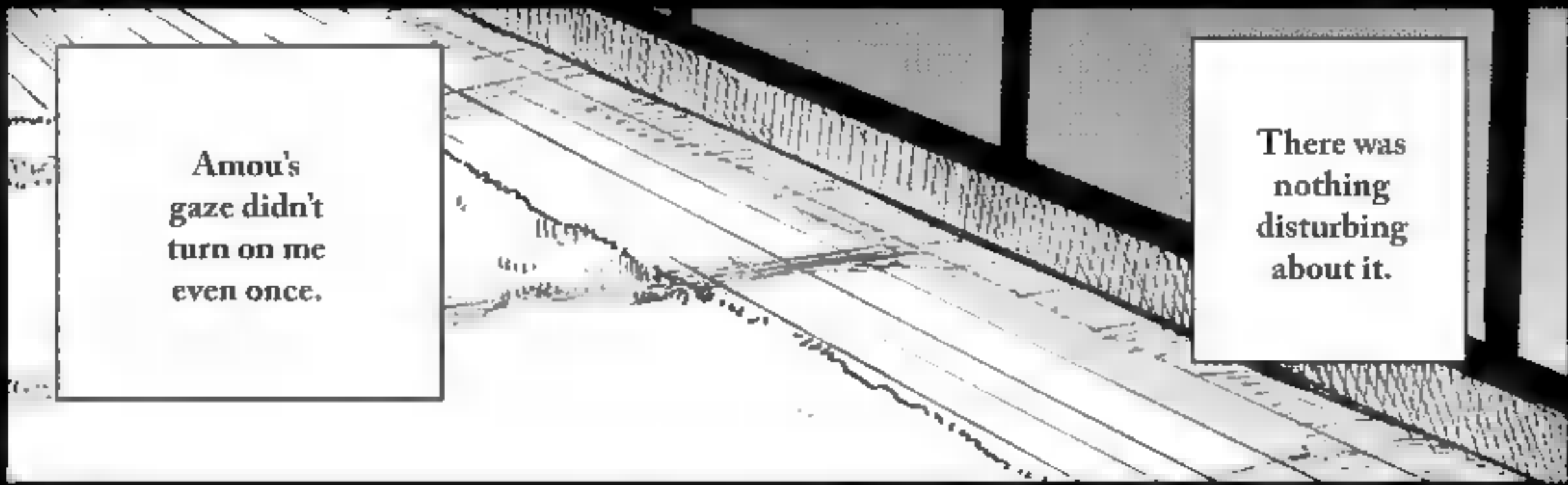
Lau-
ghing
at my-
self?

RESIST
WHAT?

Resist.

are
pro-
voca-
tive.

TOWARD
WHOM?



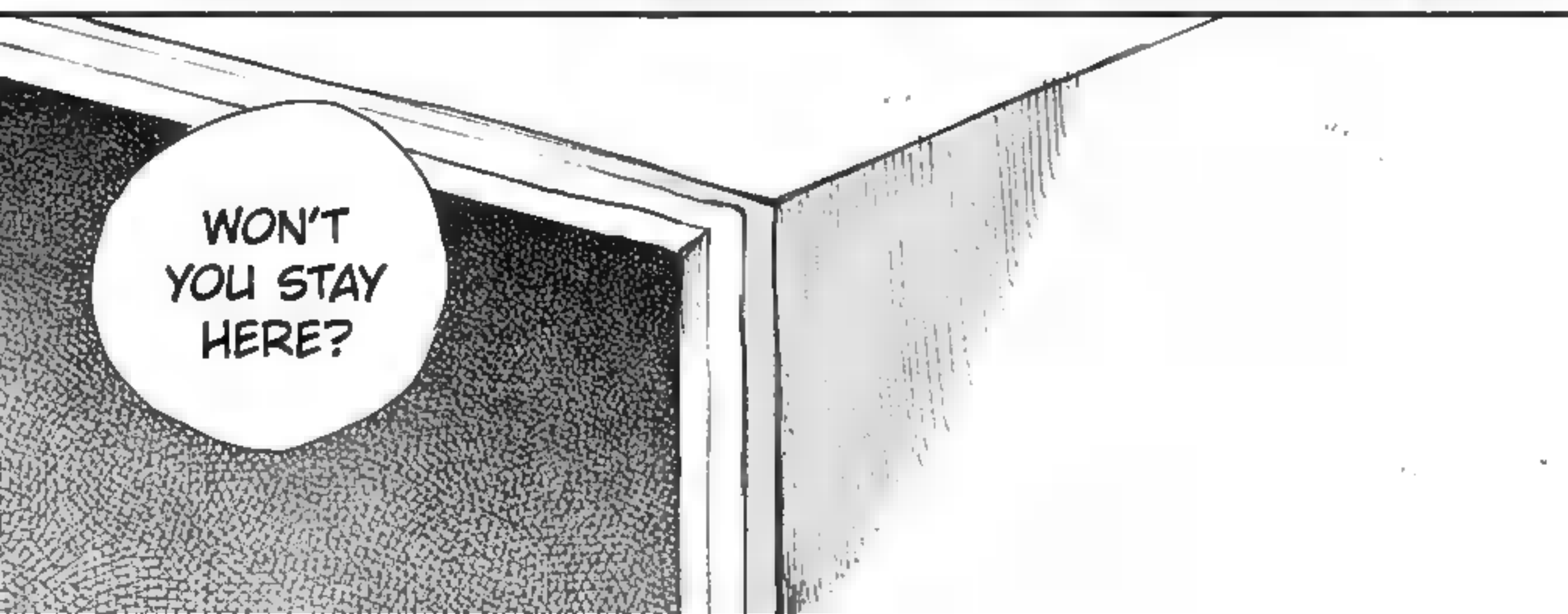
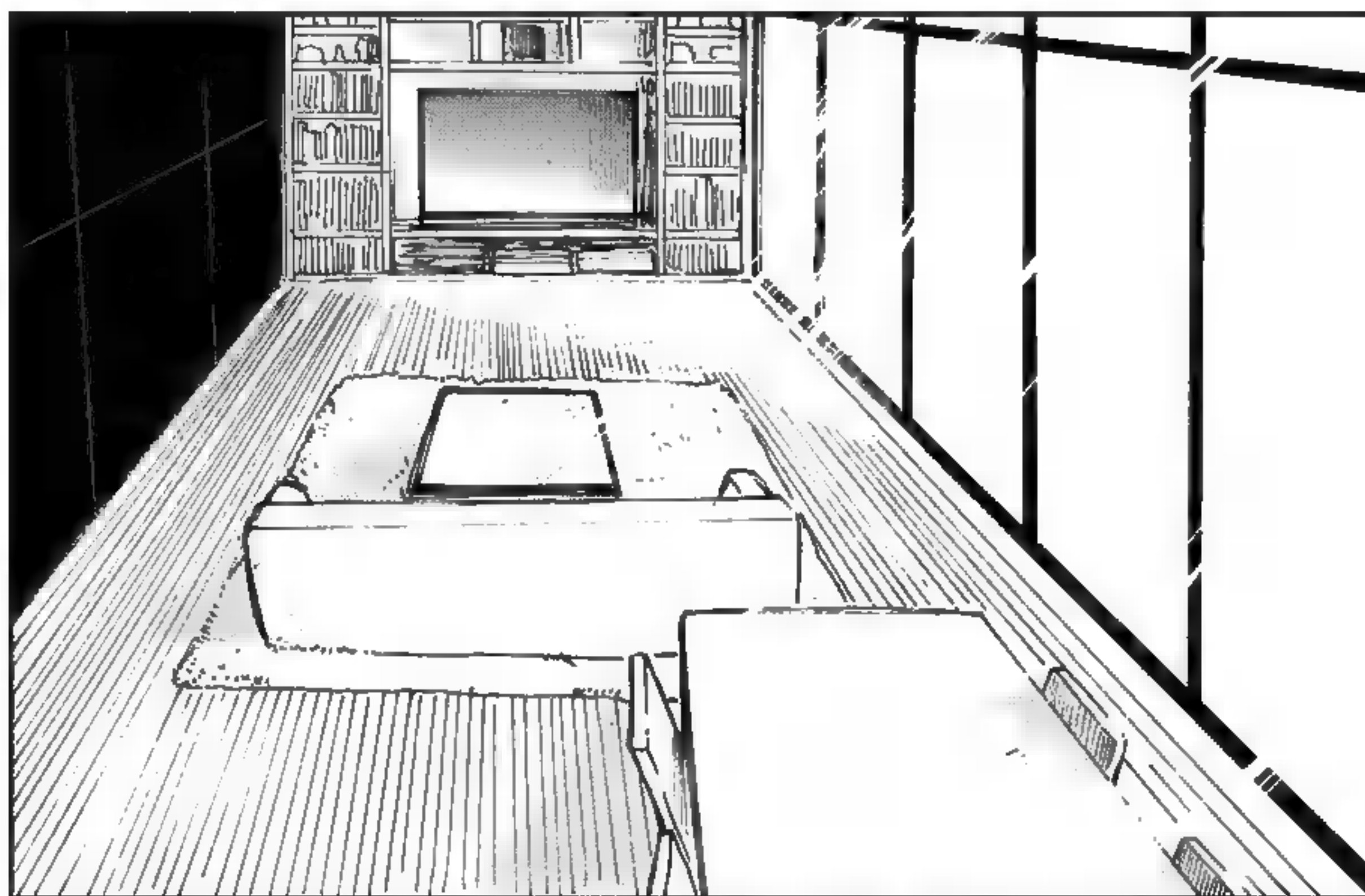
Amou's
gaze didn't
turn on me
even once.

There was
nothing
disturbing
about it.



Those
eyes
were...

cap-
tivated
only by
José.





I'LL
FINISH UN-
PACKING.

UNTIL
YOU FIND YOUR
OWN APART-
MENT.

FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE.



ER...

UH...

WELL...

HUH?

AMOU-
SAN.

I TALKED IT
OVER WITH
JOSÉ

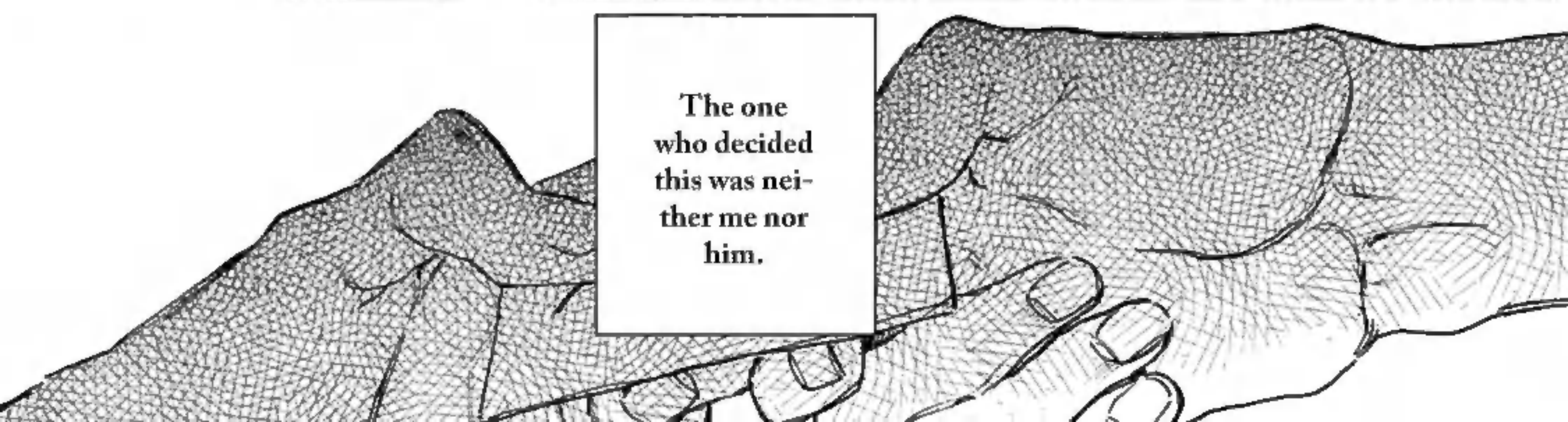
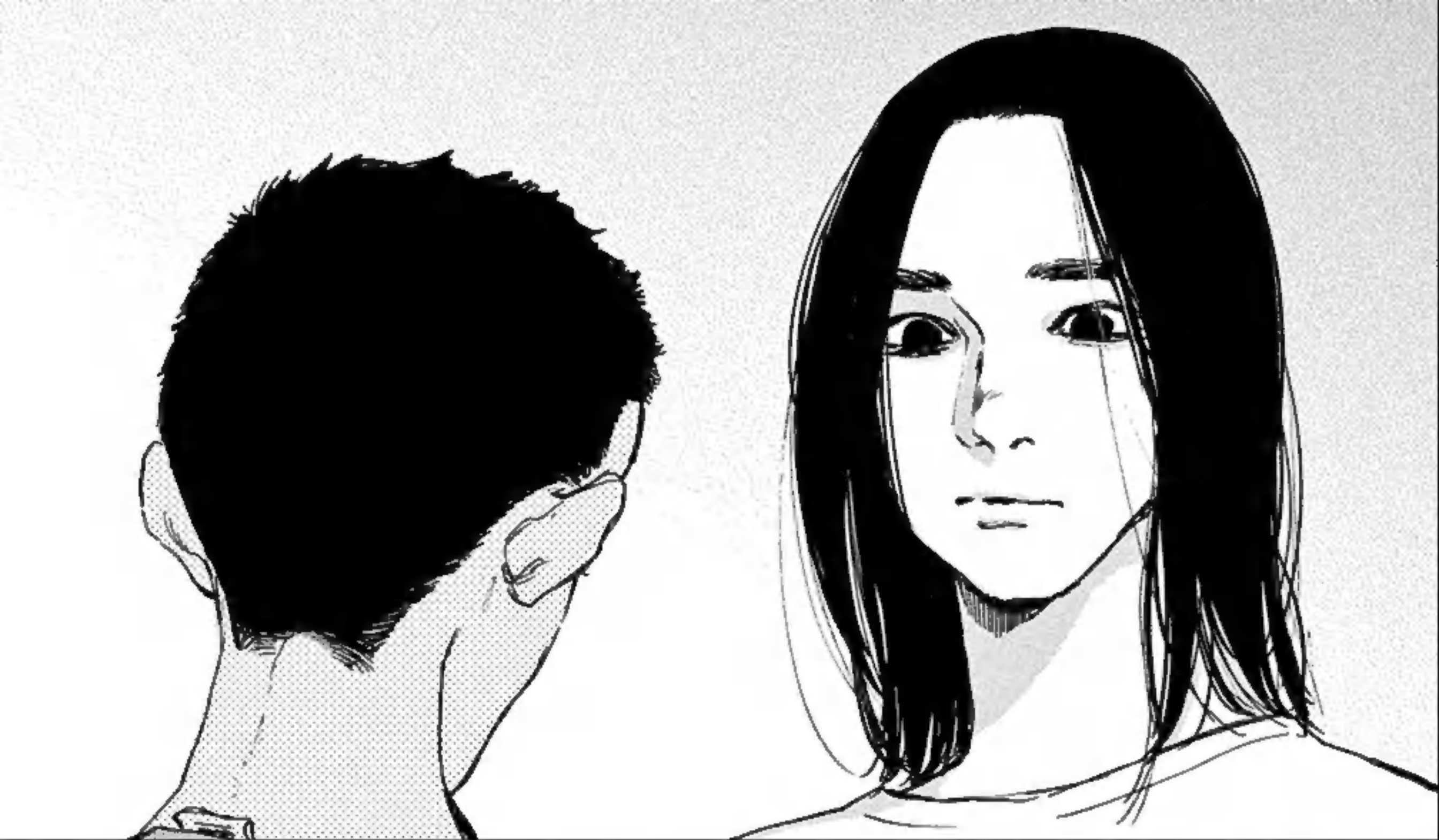
LAST
NIGHT.

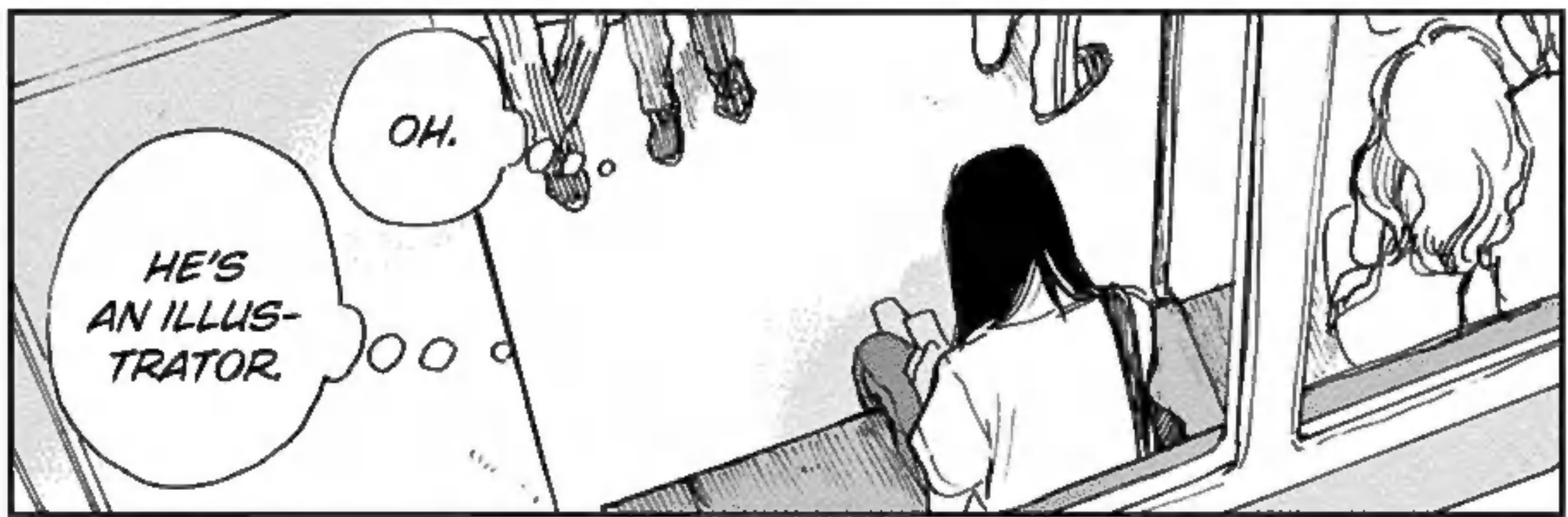
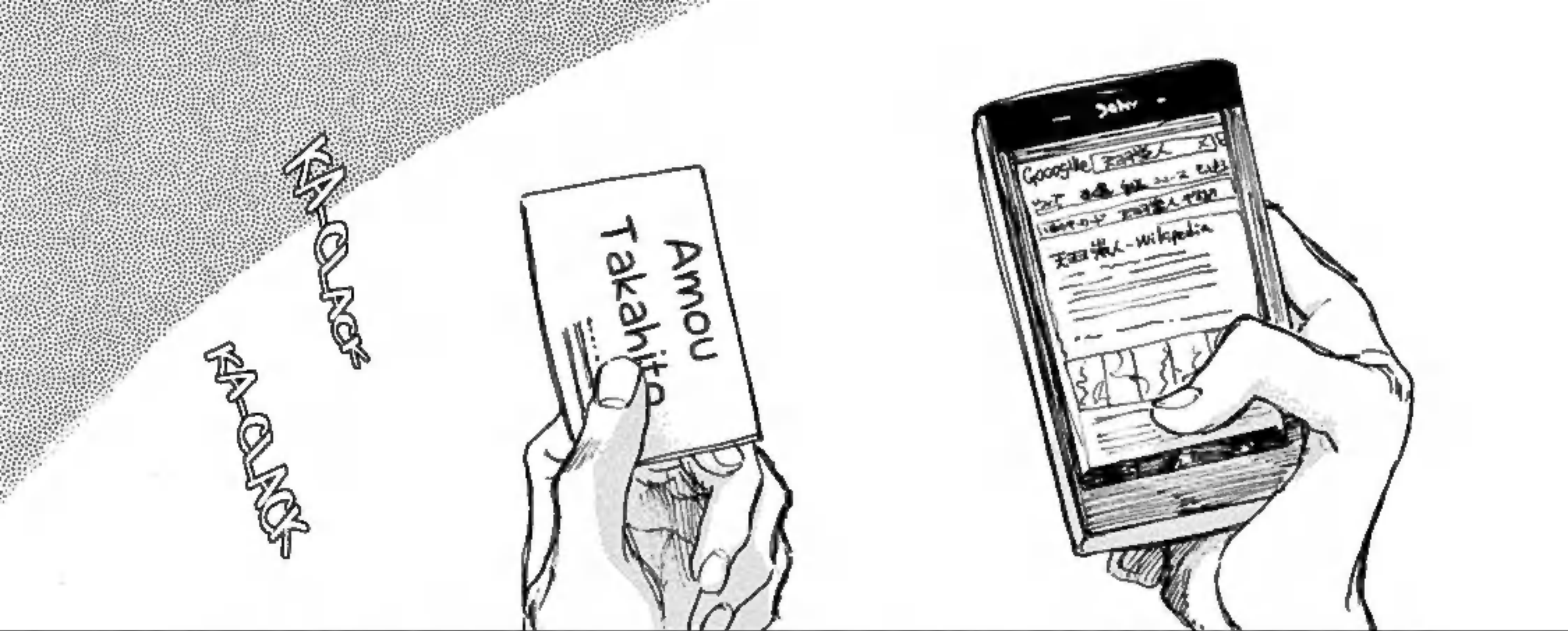
HERE'S
THE AD-
DRESS.

LET
ME KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE
COMING.

WHAT?

JOSÉ
SAID TO
DO IT.







YEAH...



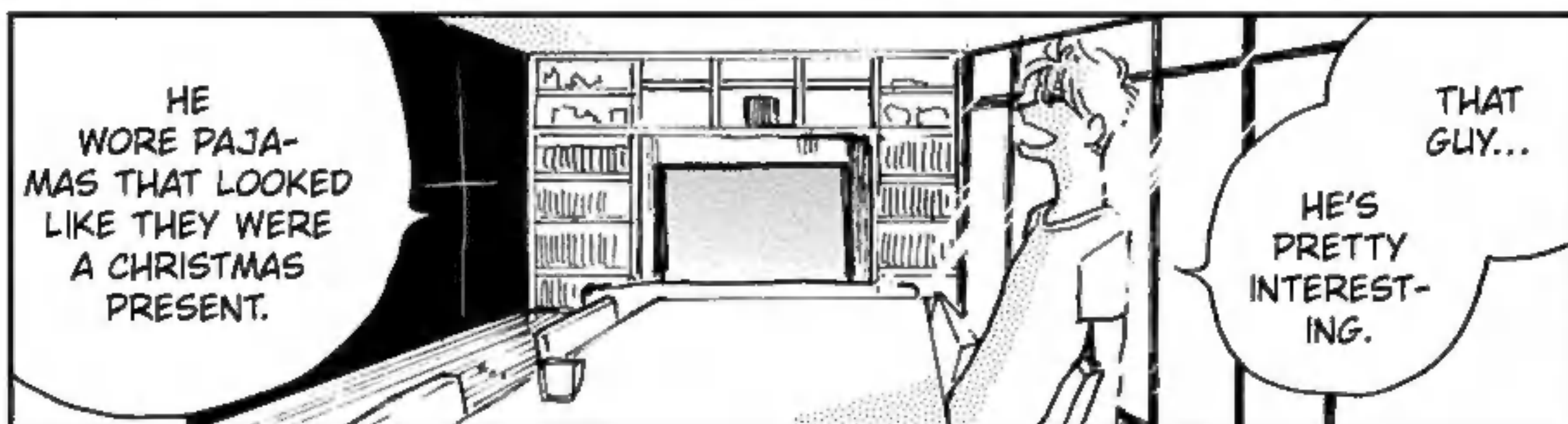
DID YOU
TALK TO
HIM?

I
DID.

WOULD YOU
LIKE SOME
WATER?

HE
WENT
HOME.

FOR
REAL?
IT'S SO
EARLY.



HE
WORE PAJA-
MAS THAT LOOKED
LIKE THEY WERE
A CHRISTMAS
PRESENT.

THAT
GUY...

HE'S
PRETTY
INTEREST-
ING.



I have a
coat on
over it.

YOU CAME
TO THE
STUDIO

WEARING
THAT?



...



IS
THAT
SO.

